aspects and an early decision is likely to be taken in this regard..... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you may issue the directions that final decision should be taken in this regard at the earliest. You may ask the Minister to stand up and give an assurance to this effect that final decision will be taken before the end of this season..*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister to stand-up and give an assurance. What are you going to loose? ....*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, final decision should be taken before the end of this Session i.e. 14th August...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, I fully understand the feelings of the hon. Members. But I will not commit anything at this moment unless I bring this issue to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister because something has been discussed with the hon. Speaker and hon. Prime Minister. I will consult them and then I will come back before the House.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA): Sir, last time the Government has said about the pension of freedom fighters also. This is the fiftieth year of our Independence.

[Translation]

Government should take a decision on freedom fighters' pension at the earliest. If a decision is taken before 14 August, 1997, it would assuage our feellings with which we want to give pension to the freedom fighters. So I urge upon the Government again and again that a decision must be taken before 14th August, 1997. Today is the 1st August and not many days are left before 14th August. So I request the Minister of State for Home to give an assurance in the House in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the Hon. Members through you that Hon. Prime Minister has constituted a Committee in this regard and we have a meeting on this issue after taking 'options' and 'non-options' from the freedom fighters. After consultation with the senior freedom fighters, we have recommended to double the pension being given presently to the freedom fighters and to extend some more facilities to them.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, this is all right, but a decision should be taken before 14th August.

SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR :A decision will be taken before 14th August.

[English]

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (MAVELIKARA): Hon. Minister, a number of applications for sanctioning of freedom fighters' pension are even now pending with your Ministry. Will you expedite the clearance of the same?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, it is regarding freedom fighters' pension. This is the fiftieth year of our Independence. A number of applications are still pending. What do they do about them?

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR : If there is any particular case, please tell me.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): It is not a matter of any particular case. Many cases in respect of giving pension to freedom fighters are pending clearance in the Ministry of Home Affairs. You are requested to clear these cases by giving pension to all the freedom fighters at the earliest.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let the agenda items be taken up now.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (KASARGODA): Sir, I seek a clarification. The Rajya Sabha Members are continuing to get the gas connection coupons. We are not getting them. Let the Government clarify it. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (BAREILLY): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next agenda:-

Early approval for construction of 220 K.B. Bareilly, C.B. Ganj - Almora (UP) electric line, pending for approval with the Ministry of Forest and Environment, Government of India.

12.18 hrs.

(SHRI CHITTA BASU *in the Chair*)

For discussion regarding approval to provide grant of 31 crore rupees each year to Uttar Pradesh by Central Government under Central Road Fund.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (KOTA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

Almost in all the districts of Rajasthan particularly in Bara district of Kota division post offices are functioning in old, dilapidated and rented buildings. Discrimination and negligence is shown while allocating funds for construction of new buildings. Therefore, new departmental buildings may be constructed in all the districts of Kota division alongwith Bara district.

No appropriate action has been taken till date to connect all important cities of Rajasthan with cellular telephone facility. Therefore, I would like to request to consider this matter on priority basis.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (ALMORA): The following items may be included in next week's agenda:-

1. Need to introduce Bill on merger of 9 hilly districts and holy place Haridwar to make a separate state of Uttaranchal in Uttar Pradesh during this session as per decision of the Central Government.

2. Need to punish the guilty persons by conducting a judicial inquiry into the incident occurred on 26.7.97 in Ranikhet cantonment of Uttar Pradesh where soldiers of Army equipped with arms illegally demolished the school building in civil area without permission.

LT. GENERAL PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (DEORIA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

The essential commodities have been affected due to smuggling of foodgrains in large scale in West Bengal. The discussion on crisis arising out of this situation may be held in next week.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (SAMASTIPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make the following two suggestions with your kind permission to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to include in next week's agenda:-

1. The potatoes in Bihar have been spoiled due to lack of appropriate arrangement for their storage and marketing. The Government should have made arrangement for this and also provide relief to the farmers.

2. The provision had been made in the last Railway Budget to construct a Diesel shed in Samastipur for which a foundation stone was also laid but work has not been commenced yet. The Minister of Railway is requested to start this work.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (RANCHI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. The factory is on the verge of closure due to non-receipt of work order (berth orders) from the Ministry of Railways and Coal. It has affected fifteen thousand employees and lakhs of families. The case of revision of pay scale is also pending for many years. The people of displaced families are not even getting employment. Hence, inquiry should be conducted through a committee constituted by the House.

2. Power and water supply is interrupted for 10-12 hours in Ranchi resulting into repeated agitations. Electricity lines and water pipes have been damaged due to lack of their repair the electricity and water is not being supplied properly. Therefore, the Union Government is requested to take action immediately.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (PATIALA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

The economic price of Food Corporation of India is increasing continuously. Pusa - 44 variety of rice is kept in fine category in Punjab while this quality comes under super fine category in Haryana. Therefore, action may be taken for making comprehensive reform in the existing formal and working procedure of Food Corporation of India.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (CHANDNI CHOWK-DELHI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following two items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. It is proposed to close down thousands of small scale industries recently in the National Capital Territory of Delhi on the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court due to which many workers would become unemployed and come to the verge of starvation. The matter with regard to provide means of employment to these workers and to rehabilitate them may be taken up.

2. The matter regarding setting up of a "Vikas Board" by Central Government to make available essential basic facilities to the people living in slum katras of "Old Delhi" area in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and to get the development works done there.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

(1) Revival of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation and Fertilizer Corporation of India.

(2) Need to take steps to provide jobs to the persons whose applications are pending for a long time on compassionate ground.

[English]

12.26 hrs.

MOTION RE: FIFTEENTH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): Sir, I beg to move the following:-

"That this House do agree with the Fifteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 31st July, 1997."